

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 623

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Edwin Emerson, Jr., of Bolivar.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Edwin Emerson, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, John Emerson, Jr., was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born April 18, 1933, Mr. Emerson was the son of John Edwin, Sr., and Ruby Nola Shearin Emerson; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Bolivar, John Emerson, Jr., was a member of Bolivar Central High School's Class of 1951; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emerson served in the United States Navy on the USS *Helena* until the death of his father in 1953, when he was discharged to come home and take over operations of his father's store, Emerson's Grocery; he managed the store until his retirement in 1997 and was regarded by his community to be kind and generous, often giving to those in need; and

WHEREAS, John Emerson, Jr., was an active member of his local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and he enjoyed duck hunting, crappie fishing, and gardening; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emerson was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church in Bolivar, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, John Emerson, Jr., was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Emerson was united in marriage to Beverly Denton Emerson on September 16, 1951, and they enjoyed sixty-five years of love and companionship until her passing in 2017; and

WHEREAS, John Emerson, Jr., was the proud father of Mary Nola Meeks, Marian Puckett, and Edwin Boyette Emerson; the loving grandfather of Susan Bunkley, Christi Meeks, Melinda Davidson, Blake Emerson, Tyler Emerson, Kristina Emerson, Joseph Emerson, Andrew Thompson, Katie Rickman, and Caleb Puckett; the treasured great-grandfather of Lillian, Zakk, Shelby, James, Bailey, Olivia, Adelaide, David, Will, and Jeremy; and the beloved brother of Barbara Smith; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents and his wife, Mr. Emerson was preceded in death by his son David Morris Emerson; and

WHEREAS, John Emerson, Jr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Edwin Emerson, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Emerson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.